

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/716,998

Applicant(s)

PARK, WOO-JONG

Examiner

Kevin Mew

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/19/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 9-10, 12-16, 20, which have been renumbered as claims 1-12, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 15.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Remarks/Arguments filed on 3/19/2007 regarding claims 1-3, 5, 9-10, 12-16, 20 have been fully considered. Claims 4, 6-8, 11, 17-19 have been cancelled by applicant. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-10, 12-16, 20 are currently pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney Mr. Matthew Lestina on 6/4/2007. The substance of the interview is to request from applicant's representative, Mr. Lestina, for permission to perform Examiner's amendment by adding the limitations "sending no-port information from said main search block to said port if said main search block does not comprise said destination address" to claim 5.

The application has been amended as follows on the next page:

Art Unit: 2616

5. (Currently Amended) An address search method in an ethernet switch, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not a port has received an [[information]] input packet for transmission;

reading a destination address from a header of said [[information]] input packet;

determining whether said destination address exists in a local search block of said port;

filtering the received input packet when said destination address and source address are the same, to thereby purge the input packet;

updating a destination address received from a main search block when the destination address does not exist in the local search block of said port and when said main search block includes the destination address; and

sending no-port information from said main search block to said port if said main search block does not comprise said destination address; and

broadcasting said input packet to all ports in said Ethernet switch.

[[determining whether said destination address is the same as a source address; and

transmitting said information packet to said destination address if said destination address is in said local search block of said port and is not the same as said source address.]]

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application relates to an address search method and apparatus in an Ethernet switch, including the unique functions of:

“main search block being further configured to respond to a destination address request from at least one of said plurality of local search blocks by sending a “no port” signal to said at least one of said plurality of local search blocks upon said main search block not having said destination address.”

The closest prior art, Ganesh et al. (US Publication 2002/0051450 A1), discloses a switching device that comprises a central management module and a plurality of port modules, wherein if the destination address is not found in the lookup table of the port module, the central management module will be used to search for the destination address and to pass the searched destination address to the port module. However, Ganesh fails to anticipate or render obvious the above quoted limitations of the present application. This renders the claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Mew
Work Group 2616

KM


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

6/2/07